



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 19, 2017

- [Elusive elk put down Saturday by wildlife officials](#)
- [Iowa deer harvest tops 90,000](#)
- [DNR awards over \\$220,000 in grants to 92 Iowa fire departments](#)

## Elusive elk put down Saturday by wildlife officials

An elk of unknown origin in eastern Iowa was shot Saturday afternoon to protect the Iowa deer herd and domestic livestock from the potential impacts of chronic wasting disease and other diseases.

The bull elk had been spotted in various locations in Dubuque and Jackson counties since it first appeared on a trail camera by Cascade in October.

Sightings of elk that had escaped from a captive herd are fairly common in Iowa and when an elk is spotted, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) works with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) to determine status of elk and the best available options. If the elk can be returned to the proper owners, then they are. If not, they then pose a risk to spreading CWD and/or other diseases and are dispatched. Captive producers from the area did not report they were missing any animals.

The bull elk was killed Saturday afternoon by the Iowa DNR. The animal was examined for identification markings and was found with notches in its ears, consistent with the animal being part of a captive herd.

The lymph nodes were removed for testing.

While the risk that escapees are introducing CWD or TB to Iowa's wild deer may be small, the consequence to the resource is enormous and it is a risk that should be avoided.

Removing a wandering elk is the responsibility of the Iowa DNR working in conjunction with the IDALS, and is not allowed by the public.

**Media Contact:** Curt Kemmerer, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-357-2035.

## Iowa deer harvest tops 90,000

The 2017 Iowa deer harvest is running more than 5 percent ahead of the 2016 totals. So far this fall, 90,955 deer have been reported, compared to 86,506 for the same period last year.

Iowa's final deer hunting seasons – the late muzzleloader season and archery season – conclude on Jan. 10, 2018.

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## DNR awards over \$220,000 in grants to 92 Iowa fire departments

AMES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry - Fire Program, in cooperation with US Forest Service - State and Private Forestry, has awarded \$224,799 in 50% cost-share grants to 92 of Iowa's rural fire departments to aid their efforts in protecting Iowans and their property from wildfires. The grants offer valuable funding assistance for wildfire suppression equipment, personal protective equipment, and communications equipment.

A full list of the fire departments that received the 2017 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants can be [found here](#).

The VFA program is authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill to provide financial, technical, and other assistance through state forestry agencies to organize, equip, and train small, local fire departments in rural communities with populations under 10,000 to prevent and suppress rural fires. Work contributes to healthy forests, forest stewardship, and sustainable economic development. VFA dollars may be used to fund multi-community/fire department projects such as mutual-aid communications networks.

The DNR reminds all fire departments of the importance of submitting Wildland Fire Reports whenever they respond to a wildland fire or provide assistance to a prescribed or controlled wildland fire. Wildland Fire reporting forms are available at [www.iowadnr.gov/fire](http://www.iowadnr.gov/fire). Departments actively returning these reports receive priority points when the VFA grant applications are scored. These wildland fire reports are compiled locally and nationally and are reported to Congress.

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